

# APRIL

Magic Lantern Society

## NEWS 2024



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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## Events

## The Magic Lantern Calendar –April 2024

Mar. 30, 2024, **Magic Tricks and Optical Illusions with Mirror Mirror**, explore the beginnings of cinema with the world's oldest projection device, Jill Craigie Cinema, Roland Levinsky Building, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, Devon PL4 8AA, UK.

Apr. 4, 2024, **Relict: A Phantasmagoria**, with Melissa Ferrari, UnionDocs, 352 Onderdonk Ave, Ridgewood, NY

Apr. 5-8, 2024, **Once-In-A-Century Experience: Solar Spectacle**, including magic lantern show, Genesee Country Village & Museum, 1410 Flint Hill Road, Mumford, New York 14511.

Apr. 11, 2024, **Relict: A Phantasmagoria**, with Melissa Ferrari, The Exploratorium, Pier 15 (Embarcadero at Green Street), San Francisco, CA.

April 15, 2024, **College Night 2024**, includes magic lantern animations by Melissa Ferrari, Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90049.

Apr. 26, 2024, **Magic Lantern Keynote**, presented by members of the NW Group, Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Port Townsend Victorian Festival, Mt. Baker Block Building, Port Townsend WA98368 USA.

May 16-19, 2024 **Columbia Diggins** at Columbia State Historic Park, Columbia California. [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24249](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24249)

May 29, 2024, **Magical Magic Lanterns**, create your own magic lantern slides out of tracing paper, cardboard, and imagination; then project using a hundred year old magic lantern, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3RX, UK.

June 15-16, 2024, **Turbulent Times: A Summer Excursion to the Netherlands**, special meeting of the Magic Lantern Society (UK), Magic Lantern Museum, Scheveningen, Den Haag, Netherlands. Registration deadline May 16, limited to 50 participants [turbulent-times@magiclantern.org.uk](mailto:turbulent-times@magiclantern.org.uk)

June 22, 2024, **Steampunk at Strathearn**. Simi Valley California

July 13 & 14, 2024, **The Art of the Magic Lantern**, exhibit and performances, Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences, 307 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060. Proposals due February 15.

Aug. 27, 2024, **BOEM! Or Experimental media archaeological reflections on re-enactment and 'crazy' avant-garde performances as part of media history**, lecture by Annie van den Oever, Antwerp Summer School Arts & Media Archaeology, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Sept. 19-21, 2024 **Magic Lantern Convention**, Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA

**continued next page**

## The Magic Lantern Calendar –April 2024

### Exhibits

Mar. 3, 2024 – Dec/ 29. 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildrewelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Apr. 20 – Oct. 31, 2024, **Exhibition: Collection, tell us a story**, stories through time, dimensions and space, in the world of the magic lantern, Musee de la Loire, Place de la Resistance, 58200 Cosne-Cours- Sur-Loire, France

July 11 – Sept 28, 2024, **The Art of the Magic Lantern**, Burlington County Workers House gallery, Historic Smithville Park, 803 Smithville Rd, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060.

Jul 13-14, 2024, “**The Art of The Magic Lantern**”; exhibit, Eastampton New Jersey. This event will have Terry Borton, Matt Schnittker, Melissa Ferrari, Joel Schlemowitz, Larry Rakow, and others!

### Online

**Magic Lantern Performing Group**, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: [tborton@magiclanternshows.com](mailto:tborton@magiclanternshows.com)

**De Luikerwaal** Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

**Lucerna** – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

**The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows**, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids’ Page. [www.magiclanternmuseum.com](http://www.magiclanternmuseum.com)

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to [briandrogers@gmail.com](mailto:briandrogers@gmail.com).



Melissa Ferrari is an experimental animator, nonfiction filmmaker, magic lanternist and educator who seeks to acquaint folklores of the past with contemporary culture. In exposing peripheral histories, she aims to unveil the wonder that lies in the shadow of nonfiction, rather than fiction. Her practice engages with the mythification of science and pseudoscience, the preternatural, and histories of phantasmagoria and documentary. Melissa also creates commissioned animation for documentaries, specializing in handmade animation for films addressing social issues.

**Check out some of her great Animation experiments**

<https://vimeo.com/924528210>

## Melissa Ferrari



<https://www.melissaferrari.com/about>



### **Creating Magic Lantern Slides at the Santa Monica Camera Obscura Art Lab (Or, Confessions of a 21st-Century Slidemaker)**

I was asked to create documentation of my artist residency at the Camera Obscura Art Lab in Santa Monica last year, where I spent most of my time making magic lantern slides. Thought I would share here in case anyone is interested in my "Confessions of a 21st-Century Slidemaker!"



### **Melissa Ferrari Upcoming Lantern Shows**

**April 11, 2024**  
**Exploratorium | San Francisco, CA**

**April 4, 2024**  
**UnionDocs | New York, NY**



## MORE

### Member Activity

I was invited to give a Magic Lantern show at the Southern California Linux Expo. This is a conference that focuses on Open Source technologies. One of the highlights is a “Game Night” where conference attendees get to play games and be entertained. I was there with the lantern to make a sort of “Dinner and a Movie” experience for the attendees.



It was a really fun event, but also a great example of needing to be flexible as a performer.. The venue had asked for two, half hour shows where folks could watch the show while eating. However, upon arrival, it was pretty clear that this was not going to work. The room was full of distractions such as table tennis, crafting experiences, video games, and buffet style food

## Matt Schnittker



options. It was a party! Also, as folks were constantly on the move, they were not going to be able to dim the lights.

Though, rather than stressing about all this, I simply changed my presentation on the fly. They had a good sound system for me so I walked from table to table with a mechanical slide and let folks operate it. The audience enjoyed seeing the technology and had lots of questions about the history of the lantern. I then did a couple of short, 10 minute slip slide shows. Several folks asked about other places they could see shows and one family

asked if I'd perform for their kids' birthday party. It was great to have the audience so interested in an 1800's technology.



Here was my setup. As you can see the room was bright, but folks could still see the image well enough. This is using LED lighting.



I don't have a binual, but I find I can do just fine with two lanterns side by side for most things.

I ended up having a great time and a very engaged audience. The trick was being flexible. If I had tried to hold an audience for 30 minutes in the bright, noisy, high

**continued next page**

## Matt Schnittker continued

distraction environment, they would have just moved on. I needed to match the energy of my show to the attention of the room and focus on 5 to 10 minute interaction. As the screen was difficult to see, walking through the audience and letting them get “hands on” with a slide really helped give a connection to what was on screen and made the show more engaging. The audience loved the show and I was invited to return again next year.

## Matt Schnittker

### Upcoming Shows

March 21-24 - Little House On the Prairie  
Cast Reunion, Simi Valley, California  
<https://littlehousefestival.com/>

May 16-19 - Columbia Diggins at Columbia  
State Historic Park, Columbia California.  
[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24249](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24249)

June 22nd - Steampunk at Strathearn. Simi  
Valley California

Jul 13-14 - Burlington County “The Art Of  
The Magic Lantern” exhibit , Eastampton  
New Jersey. This event will have Terry  
Borton, Matt Schnittker, Melissa Ferrari,  
Joel Schlemowitz, Larry Rakow, and  
others!

## MORE

Member  
Activity

May 3rd



## Joel Schlemowitz

Victorian Magic  
Lantern Show with Joel  
Schlemowitz!

Join us for a spectacular  
show with Joel Schlemowitz  
on the lawn of the  
Walton Young House at  
the University Museum.  
Popcorn, cotton candy, and  
refreshments will be provided  
to enjoy during a theatrical  
demonstration of Victorian  
magic lantern slides. All ages  
are welcome at this free event.

[https://museum.olemiss.edu/victorianmagiclanternshow/?fbclid=IwAR0HWWlwv2wbay2PtYvBDUFBS79g8bP2o\\_5Bak0rQhGdhtCdK-fRRQo6tDQ](https://museum.olemiss.edu/victorianmagiclanternshow/?fbclid=IwAR0HWWlwv2wbay2PtYvBDUFBS79g8bP2o_5Bak0rQhGdhtCdK-fRRQo6tDQ)







## Magic Lantern and Old Cameras

**From Jack Diamond**

wingbowl25@gmail.com

Good Morning

My fathers estate contained many old photographic equipment including a magic lantern.

I'm clearing out my father's estate he had over 100 old-antique cameras, projectors. Would the club members have any interest or do you know of a place to offer them? As myself and my siblings are in our 60's we really don't need stuff. More than money we'd prefer that these items get into the hands of someone to care for and appreciate. Can you guide us in the proper direction?

Thanks for the response.

I'm in Florida for the winters and Poconos for the summers, but I have many hockey buddies in Canada and visit there every summer, Most I play hockey with in Florida.

The picture sent is the only Magic Lantern.

I'll forward an e-mail with several pictures, I'm still in the process of inventorying the collection. We are more interested in getting them into caring hands over \$ as my siblings and myself are in our 60s and in ok shape financially. I'd welcome a reason to go on a motor home adventure to drop off items as well.

Jack Diamond  
717 406 7215

Thanks

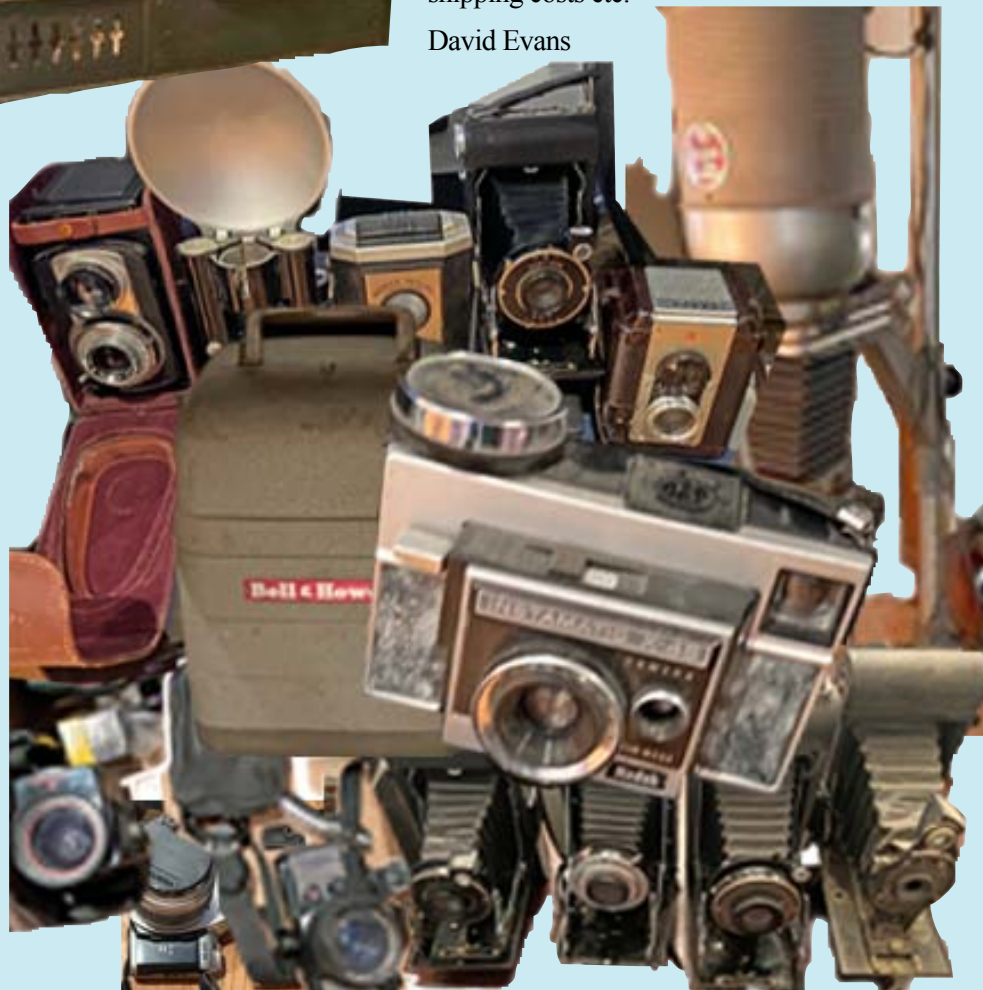


**From David Evans**

Hello Jack

Thank you for contacting us about the collection. We can add it to our next e-publication, but it would help to have pictures - you already sent one of the lantern - so that our members can get an idea of the kind of stuff you have. Also, where are you located? Can make a difference to shipping costs etc.

David Evans



# A Magic Lantern Exhibition

## From Karl Link

If any of you will be traveling to Germany in 2024 or 2025, Bernd Scholze, one of our members from Germany, in conjunction with the German Film Institute and Film Museum in Frankfurt is organizing a magic lantern exhibition.

<https://www.hessenpark.de/veranstaltungen/sonderausstellungen/>

It is located at the Open Air Museum Hessenpark approximately 10 mi. NNW of Frankfurt. Hessenpark has many traditional historic buildings which it preserves. You can find out more about it at their internet site <https://www.hessenpark.de/en/>

The special exhibition will run from March 3, 2024 - December 28, 2025, featuring magic lanterns and lantern slides for children and grown-ups from 1785-1900.

I am including a link to a brochure accompanying the exhibition. It is written in German, but has great photos of toy lanterns and many old toy lantern slides you don't see very often. The second link is for an article in English by Bernd Scholze on "The Beginnings of the Modern Toy Industry in Germany: Peter Friedrich Catel and the First Toy Lanterns" (The Magic Lantern Journal, Vol. 1, No.1, Dec. 2014), which covers some of what is being described in the exhibition brochure.

<https://www.hessenpark.de/wp-content/uploads/Ausstellungsbroschuere-Laterna-Magica-2024-Web.pdf>  
<https://www.magiclantern.org.uk/the-magic-lantern/pdfs/4009617a.pdf>

Thank you,  
Karl



**The Magic Lantern**

**THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MODERN TOY INDUSTRY IN GERMANY: PETER FRIEDRICH CATEL AND THE FIRST TOY LANTERNS**  
Bernd Scholze

**INTRODUCTION**  
The important supporting role played by the toy lantern has been overlooked in most accounts of the history of the magic lantern. It is generally forgotten that, at least in the German market, the manufacture and trade in toy lanterns continued for a period of almost one and a half centuries, from 1780 until the 1930s. Only the last third of this period, after the creation of the German Empire in 1871, is relatively well documented, mainly through the inclusion of lanterns in the catalogues of well-known and successful Nuremberg toy factories such as Bing, Plank, Schoerner, Danthorn or Carette.<sup>1</sup>

Largest magic lantern model made by Rast, c.1800; for wood-burned slides (Physikalisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt - Physikalisches Kabinett)

**Number 1 – December 2014**  
**CONTENTS**  
1. Bernd Scholze 'The Beginnings of the Modern Toy Industry in Germany: Peter Friedrich Catel and the First Toy Lanterns'

The history of the toy lantern can only be understood in the wider context of a market for 'philosophical' toys that was developed at the end of the eighteenth century. What, then, were philosophical toys? These were small-scale replicas of devices used in scientific and educational contexts: simplified working models, usually made by traditional instrument makers. For the toys, expensive metals or woods or cardboard helped to keep their scientific experiments, created a widespread populations.<sup>2</sup> Besides (continued on page 3)

**IN THE MAGIC OF LIGHT**

**World of images of Laterna Magica**

The Laterna Magica was developed in the 17th century as a new optical instrument. It could be used to project colored glass images. It served as entertainment and instruction for centuries. The pictures show fairy tales, travel reports, educational content or funny stories. The cabinet exhibition is a cooperation with the DFF - German Film Institute & Film Museum and the collector Bernd Scholze. It shows a selection of Laterna Magica projectors and glass pictures for children and adults from 1785 to around 1900 and an image-sound installation.

**Haus aus Queck (photo house)**  
**March 3, 2024 to December 28, 2025**





## Bringing The Magic To Movie Land

Bringing The Magic To Movie Land  
We are thrilled to announce the 20th  
International Convention of the Magic  
Lantern Society of the United States and  
Canada will be held at the historic, art  
deco, Queen Mary ship and hotel, Long  
Beach, California.  
Save the date: September 19-21, 2024.  
Registration and hotel information, with  
special reduced convention rates to be  
announced soon. Call for presentation to  
be issued soon, start planning how you can  
participat

## Conference in Cologne Germany

### From Karl Link

Larry,  
just got notified of this conference in  
Cologne Germany on April 28-30, 2024.  
It may be of interest to all those interested in  
Pre-Cinema and Media Archaeology.  
The conference is held at the University of  
Cologne in honor of Werner Nekes' 80th  
birthday. Among others, Erkki Huhtamo  
will give a lecture, and there will be a Magic  
Lantern show by Bernd Scholze.

Thanks,

Karl

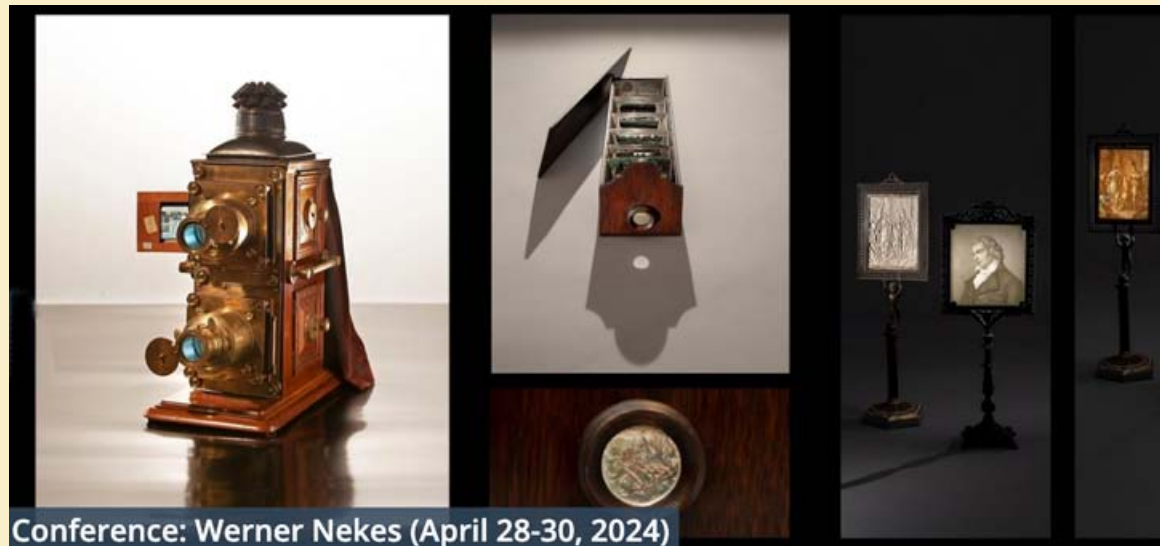
Werner Nekes was born on April 29,  
1944. As a filmmaker and collector, he  
spent his life pondering the question:  
“What really happened between the  
images?” In search of answers, he not  
only created a complex and extensive  
filmic oeuvre, but also a unique  
collection of over 25,000 objects  
compiled that reflect the history of  
vision since the early modern period.



<https://tws.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/forschung-lehre/tagungen-und-workshops/werner-nekes-80-tagung>

**28-30 April 2024**

### **Looking at the history of images« Werner Nekes on his 80th birthday**



Conference: Werner Nekes (April 28-30, 2024)

## A Site With Some Great Slide Images and Shows



<https://www.explore.whyte.org/illuminatinglanternslides>



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## Great Slide Images and Shows continued



1925-1931 Lantern Slides

### Leonard Leacock



The 235 slides in this show may not have made up a single presentation, although Leonard did create a 200-slide show and lecture about a trip to Jasper he took in the late 1920s.

Promotional Lantern Slides

### Canadian Pacific Railway



Slides such as these would have been used by the Canadian Pacific Railway to promote the completed railroad and their luxury hotels.

Probably accompanied by a speech and possibly even music, these presentations would have been shown around the world.

Promotional Lantern Slides, ca. 1930, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Canadian Pacific Railway fonds (V782/P5.1 to P542)

## Welcome New Members

### Samantha Coppola

Los Angeles

### Lynn Lemyre

Arts, Culture & Heritage Coordinator,  
Burlington County Parks Department  
Mt. Holly, NJ

### A Big Thank You to the following:

Ron Easterday  
David Evans  
Jack Diamond  
Melissa Ferrari  
Karl Link  
Brian Rogers  
Joel Schlemowitz  
Matt Schnittker

**for contributing  
to this month's issue.**